

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 97-239-C - ORDER NO. 1999-221
MARCH 26, 1999

IN RE: Proceeding to Establish Guidelines for an) ORDER
Intrastate Universal Service Fund.) GRANTING
) POSTPONEMENT

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Joint Motion to Postpone Proceeding in this Docket, filed by AT&T Communications of the Southern States, Inc. (AT&T), MCI WorldCom, Inc. (MCI WorldCom), the Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina (the Consumer Advocate), and the Southeastern Competitive Carriers Association (SECCA), collectively known as the Joint Movants. The hearing in this matter is presently set for April 26, 1999.

The Joint Movants state that key decisions that will be critical to the success of the South Carolina Universal Service Fund (SCUSF) have yet to be made by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC plans to issue its order with respect to the Federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF) for high cost, rural and insular areas in advance of its July 1, 1999 implementation date. Accordingly, the Joint Movants note that neither the parties in this Docket, nor the Commission would have a sufficient opportunity to review the FCC's anticipated order, respond appropriately with discover and testimony, or otherwise adequately prepare for a hearing before this Commission in late April. Thus,

according to the Joint Movants, a postponement of the hearing is appropriate and would assist the parties and this Commission.

Moreover, according to the Joint Movants, in past proceedings, incumbent local exchange companies (ILEC's) have advocated a size for the SCUSF that, if implemented, would result in an average of a \$15.00 charge or more per month for each access line in the State. Other states have estimated smaller intrastate funds. Therefore, the Joint Movants believe that the effect of the FCC's anticipated decision on the SCUSF should be fully understood and considered. The Joint Movants also list a number of decisions that have yet to be made by the FCC which will bear directly on the size and funding of the SCUSF.

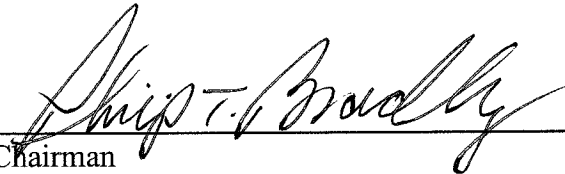
We are convinced by the Motion that the scheduled April 26 proceeding should be postponed until some time after the FCC releases its decision on these matters, said decision being expected by July of this year. We believe that the decisions to be made by the FCC could have a direct effect on the size and funding of the SCUSF. The proceeding is hereby postponed until some time after the FCC issues its decision.

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This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)